

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1-3. These sheets, which includes Figures 1-3, replaces the original sheets including Figures 1-3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Remarks

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in connection with the present application. Claims 1, 7, 13, 21, and 22 are independent claims. No new matter has been raised in this response. Applicants traverse the rejection set forth in the Office Action dated August 14, 2006.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figures 1-3 as not complying with MPEP § 608.02(g). Applicant has amended Figures 1-3 to overcome the Examiner's objection.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §103 Seo in View of Takashi

Claims 1-5, 13-16, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seo (Ref. No. 1999-2552), hereinafter "Seo", in view of Takashi (Ref. No. 62-157398), hereinafter "Takashi". Applicant respectfully traverses this art grounds of rejection.

Seo is directed to a high speed bus interface circuit which operates at a high speed with low power consumption. This is achieved by driving a data driver and a reference voltage driver at the same time in a memory device. The Examiner asserts that Seo discloses a high speed bus interface circuit including a gate circuit, and a precharging control signal to precharge the data channel before a data bit is input by maintaining a transmission line in a termination voltage level in a standby mode before transmitting a data signal.

However, Applicant contends that Seo is silent on inputting any sort of precharging control signal. Seo uses a voltage reference which is kept constant and is not a precharging control signal. A precharging control signal necessarily changes as it is used to generate an output driving signal before any data is input.

Seo also teaches driving the data driver and reference voltage driver at the same time. This further indicates that the order of operations taught in Seo is different from those cited in claim 1 with respect to the data being input after the precharging control signal.

Furthermore, Applicant contends that Seo does not include a gate circuit. The gate circuit cited in claim 1 is nowhere to be found in Seo because Seo uses transistors to hold a voltage reference (21) and to drive data (11). This configuration is used to reduce the influence of common mode noise and a ground bounce. Therefore, Seo does not teach or suggest “a gate circuit for inputting a precharging control signal and for generating an output driving signal in response to the precharging control signal before a data bit is input” as recited in claim 1.

With regards to the Examiner’s assertion that Seo teaches “maintaining a transmission line in a termination voltage level in a standby mode before transmitting a data signal” Applicant requests that the Examiner specifically point to where Seo teaches said feature.

Applicant further contends that the addition of Takashi would not remedy the Examiner’s admitted deficiency of Seo such that the combination of Seo in view of Takashi would render the claimed invention obvious to one skilled in the art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner remove this art grounds of rejection.

Further, Applicant submits that claims 2-5, dependent on claim 1, are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Independent claims 13 and 21 include similar limitations to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 13 and 21 are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 14-16, dependent on claim 13, are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 13.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claim 6 would be allowed if not for its dependence on rejected base claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-22 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$120 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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